

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 are pending in this application. Claim 1 has been amended to better define the host server along the lines set forth by Claim 12 which has support in the specification such that there is clearly no new matter involved.

The outstanding Office Action includes a rejection of Claims 1,3, 5-7, and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hiroshima et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,727,048, Hiroshima), and a rejection of Claims 2, 9, and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiroshima in view of Low et al. (U.S. Patent No.6,243,443, Low), a rejection of Claims 4, 11, and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiroshima in view of Low in further view of Sassin et al. (U.S. Patent No.6,449,260, Sassin), a rejection of Claims 8 and 13 over Hiroshima in view of Smith et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,404,876, Smith), an improperly stated¹ rejection of Claim 12, and a rejection of Claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Hiroshima in view of Low and Shank et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,445,776, Shank).

Before considering the outstanding rejections, it is believed that a brief summary of the present invention would be helpful. In this regard, the present invention is directed to a distributed multimedia data system including a network, at least one customer server located at each one of a plurality of service suppliers, each customer server being configured to be connected to the network, and a shared resources host server connected to the network that has a means for communicating through the network with a plurality of user stations via man-

¹ Claims 1 and 2 are rejected on different grounds, §102 or §103, which is being applied to Claim 12?

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machine interface resources shared among the customer servers. The shared resources host server functions to receive service requests from users also connected to the network, to initially respond to each received service request to determine the service supplier concerned therewith, and to then direct each received service request to the at least one customer server at the concerned service supplier for execution of a respective service logic associated with services provided thereby, and executed at said service supplier to exchange information by means of the shared man-machine interface with the user station from which the service request has been received.

The present invention provides the benefit of sharing man-machine interface resources of a single host server between several service suppliers, which, when notified by the host server of a service request from a user, execute a respective service logic in a customer server at the supplier's premises, in order to exchange information with the user, by means of the shared resources of the host server.

The supplier, by executing locally the service logic, can take into account the current state of the supplier internal data. Furthermore, such supplier does not have to purchase man-machine interface resources specific to the user's terminal equipment.

Turning to the anticipation rejection based on Hiroshima, it is noted that Hiroshima discloses a multimedia communication system allowing users at their terminals efficiently to order merchandise and permitting merchandise providers to efficiently deliver the ordered merchandise without supplying merchandise information to the user beforehand. See column 4, lines 25-28. This preliminary information step is realized in Hiroshima by a communication center 39.

The function of the multimedia communication center 39 of Hiroshima is, thus, to

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provide preliminary information about merchandise delivered by the providers 37 and 38. This preliminary information is given the user without any exchange being needed between the providers 37 and 38 and the center 39, which means that the exchanges occur directly between the concerned provider and the user, without any input from or output to the center 39.

Accordingly, Hiroshima does not disclose that the communication center 39 (the host server of Claims 1 and 12 according to the outstanding Action) directs the service request to the customer server at the concerned service provider 37 or 38 (which appear to be treated as the customer server of Claims 1 and 12) for execution of a respective logic associated with services provided thereby and executed at said service provider to exchange information by means of the shared resources of the communication center with the user. On the contrary, once the user has contacted the concerned provider, the exchanges are only between the concerned provider and the user as noted above.

Therefore, a system according to currently amended Claim 1 and a shared resources host server according to previously presented Claim 12 is not disclosed by Hiroshima. The rejection of Claim 2 and independent Claim 12 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Hiroshima in view of Low is also improper. Low disclose a method and a system for a more synergetic relationship between the WWW environment and the telephony network environment so as to offer telephony services over the WWW and information services over the public communication network.

More precisely, as indicated at column 7, lines 38-40 of Low, the Low concern is to provide improved access for telephone users to information resources available on the internet, which is completely different from the claimed invention. It is also completely

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different from the subject matter of Hiroshima.

Therefore, it seems very unlikely a person of ordinary skill in the art would have attempted combined the teachings of Hiroshima and Low. In this regard, In re Lee, 61 USPQ2d, 1430, 1434 (Fed. Cir. 2002) requires the PTO to “explain the reasons one of ordinary skill would have been motivated to select the references and to combine them to render the claimed invention obvious.”

Furthermore, the outstanding Action likens the contents resources of Low to the shared resources of the host server according to the claimed invention. However, the Low content resources are not of a type comparable with the shared resources of the host server of the claimed invention. Indeed, the shared resources are man-machine interface resources, whereas the content resource of Low are information resources (page 7, lines 38-40).

Moreover, as shown in Figure 5 of Low these content resources (49) are located at a plurality of http servers (51), which would correspond to the customers server in the present invention, whereas the entity that the Action asserts performs the tasks of the interface of the protocol stack subsystem of Claim 2, is the IP system 70. However, the host server of the invention, as set out in Claim 2, includes both the shared resources and the interface of the protocol stack subsystem.

Furthermore, the IP system 70 of Low is provided with text-to-speech resource 72, but this resource 72 is not responsive to a service logic executed at the http server, as set out in Claim 1 or Claim 12, after any notification of the request to the http server by the IP system. Indeed, in Low, it is the IP system 70 itself that manages its resources 72, independently of the http server whose only function is to host information content and to deliver it to the IP system when requested by the IP system. The http server does not pilot

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the man-machine interface of the IP system in order to exchange information with the user from which the information request has been received. Consequently, neither Hiroshima alone or in view of Low nor Low alone describes a system, respectively a shared resources host server as set out in the independent Claims 1 and 12 of the present application.

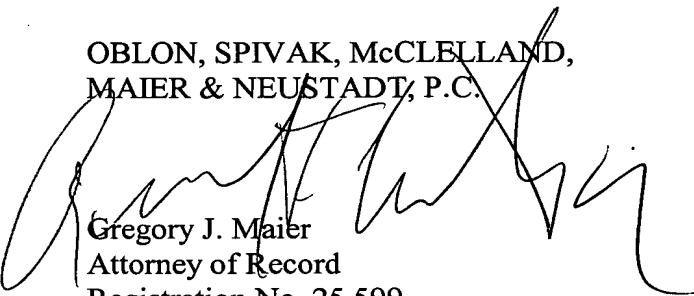
Turning to the rejection of Claims 4, 11 and 15 that adds Sassin to Hiroshima and Low the rejection of Claims 8 and 13 that adds Smith to Hiroshima, and the rejection of Claim 14 that adds Shank to Hiroshima and Low, it is noted that none of Smith, Shank and/or Sassin cures the deficiencies noted above as to Hiroshima and Low and, thus, these rejections are traversed for the reasons noted above. In addition, these claims add further features that are not taught or suggested by any of these references and these rejections are traversed for this reason as well.

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As no further issues are believed to remain outstanding in this application, it is believed that this application is clearly in a condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to this effect is, therefore, respectfully requested

Respectfully submitted,

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